THE FLYLEAF

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THE FLYLEAF

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FALL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 8 P.M., FONDREN LIBRARY

Messrs. Ben Brewer and Howard Thompson will be our guests. Mr. Brewer, who has completed his graduate study at Princeton University, will speak on "The University and Campus Architectural Continuity: the Development of a Master Plan for the Rice Institute." Mr. Thompson will give us"A Report on the Rice Institute."

FRIENDS and their guests are cordially invited.

EXHIBITS IN THE FONDREN LIBRARY

The Fondren Library is fortunate to be among eight institutions in the United States in which the fiftieth anniversary exhibition of treasures of the Pierpont Morgan Library is being shown this year. Our exhibit is presented in collaboration with the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. One hundred eight items have been selected to show the range and quality of the collections in the library. They include examples of illuminated manuscripts, early printed books, bindings, drawings and engravings of the masters, and literary manuscripts of such authors as Pope, Keats, Dickens, Scott, and Poe.

The oldest item in the Morgan exhibit is the first known manuscript of the letters of Pliny the Younger, which dates from the first part of the sixth century. Among the most famous midieval and renaissance manuscripts are the tenth-century _De Materia Medica_ of Dioscorides (Greek); three gospel manuscripts of the ninth century

(French); the Fouquet Hours; and the Manâfi al-Hayawân (Advantages derived from animals), a thirteenth-century illuminated manuscript of the Persian Mongol school.

There are also three early printed books, which are significant as illustrations of the development of the art of printing from movable type. The most famous of these is the Gutenberg Bible, printed on vellum by Johann Gutenberg in 1456. This is one of twelve existing copies. Since it was first discovered in the Bibliotheque Mazarin in Paris and contains forty-two lines to the column, it is variously called the "Mazarin Bible" and the "Forty-two Line Bible." Other examples of early printing are the 1459 Psalter (also on vellum) and the Constance Missal, one of three known copies of what some scholars believe to be the oldest European printed book.

The bindings in the collection represent the craftsmanship of Germany, Spain, France,

Italy, and England and show a variety of materials and styles. Among the interesting items are two bindings of twelfth-century Germany, one done in silver gilt and the other blind-tooled, with an English ivory plaque inserted. There is also an example of fine fifteenth-century Spanish binding in reddish-brown goatskin, and a sixteenth-century Italian illuminated manuscript bound in brown morocco. The English needlework bindings (1650) and the book bound in transparent vellum (1779) are particularly beautiful, the former showing a remarkable retention of lively color and the latter maintaining its transparent quality after two centuries.

The literary manuscripts include, among others, Pope's Essay on Man, Keats's Endymion, Scott's Ivanhoe, Poe's Tamerlane, and Dickens's Christmas Carol. This part of the exhibit was perhaps chosen with a view to giving us a picture of the artist at work. The legibility of the manuscripts ranges from the fair, clean pages of

Ivanhoe and the beautiful, well-formed letters of Poe's handwriting to the scratches, deletions, and interlineations of A Christmas Carol, which would be an editor's nightmare.

It was perhaps the sight of this last phase of the Morgan treasures that prompted us to mention a second unusual traveling exhibit, which came as the result of a visit to our campus by Professor John R. Willingham of Centenary College. Professor Willingham, who is a student of calligraphy, called our attention to the "Chancery Handwriting Exhibition," which has been on view at a number of colleges and universities throughout the country. Miss Turnbull arranged for it to be sent to Rice, where it could be seen in the second floor exhibition area during the latter part of the summer.

The collection includes some examples of fine italic handwriting by children in the schools of England. Italic writing is characterized by the fact that the letters are formed by

alternate light and heavy lines, which usually slant to the right, thus giving an effect of compactness and symmetry not found in the common hasty, illegible, asymmetrical scrawl (such as that with which the editor is afflicted).

This exhibit would be of interest to children and young people in the elementary and high schools of Houston, as well as to our own college students. It may be obtained by writing to Mr. Richard King, 211 Sussex Avenue, Newark 3, New Jersey. The only cost would be the express charges from the last place of showing.

W. S. Dowden

DESIDERATA

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Sonnets from the Portuguese, Variorum edition, 1950. $7.50

Samuel T. Coleridge, A Lay Sermon. . .on the Existing Distresses and Discontents, 1817. $11.20

A Collection of Nineteen Chapbooks. $27.30

Miguel Covarrubias, Indian Art of Mexico & Central America, 1957. $15.00

Charles Dickens, The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewitt, 1844. $8.82

Bleak House, 1853. $5.88

Little Dorrit, 1857. $7.00

Henry Fielding, The History of the Adventures of Joseph Andrews, 1742. $35.35

Inventory of the Ancient Monument in Caernarvonshire. H. M. Stationery Office. $9.10

James Hogg, The Domestic Manners and Private Life of Sir Walter Scott, 1834. $21.70

Life (Chicago), America's Arts and Skills, 1957. $11.95

Herman Moll, 36 New and Correct Maps of Scotland, 1896. $9.80

Percival H. Muir, Points, Second Series, 1866-1934, 1934. $7.00

Per Palme, Triumph of Peace, 1956. $6.72

DESIDERATA

Statuta Collegii Sapiential, 1957. $12.50

Walter Whitman, Franklin Evans; or, The Inebriate, 1929. $6.50

William Wordsworth, Memorials of a Tour on the Continent, 1822. $10.50

Poems, 1807. $3.50

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In times like these, what a relief it is to close the door upon the world, with its wrangling and recrimination, and enter that other cosmos--the world of books; that substantial world around which as Wordsworth says, "our pastime and our happiness will grow." Is there not some scrap of paper, not yet totally destroyed, granting us life, liberty, and an opportunity for the pursuit of that will-o'-the-wisp, happiness? I sometimes think that I have found it in my library. When I can be sure, I shal announce the fact; but this much is certain: I am happier here than elsewhere in the world, unless it be London; and what is London but a book, in which is written everything that can by any possible chance interest an intelligent person speaking English as his mother-tongue?

A. Edward Newton

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George D. Blocher	Magazines on accountancy
F. A. Callery, Inc.	U. S. Geological & Geographical Survey of the Territories, Report... 1873-90, v.7
Anderson, Clayton & Co.	Lloyd's Register of Shipping 1955-56
Carroll Camden	Absolom and Achitophel, by Dryden, 1708 The Orphan, by Otway, 1726
William P. Crouch	Montgomery's Auditing, 8th ed.
Elva Kalb Dumas	Modern Music & Musicians, 10v. Collection of opera scores and librettos Ballad for Americans, by LaTouche (phonograph album)
James Bernard Giles	7 volumes on economics
John E. Hodges	Publications of the National Industrial Conference Board
William M. Hart	Selected Poems, by L. Durrell New and Selected Poems, by Kenneth Fearing
Edmund J. Kaminski	Spotlight on the Keyboard (phonograph record album)

GIFTS

Harris Masterson Estate	The Crack Shot, by E. C. Barber, 1871. This copy is inscribed as a gift to Ben Thompson, Texas desperado and City Marshal of Austin.
Monitor Club	$10.00 for book on art, music or literature
Andrew Forest Muir	William Blake's Songs of Innocence. This copy is no. 10 of a facsimile edition limited to 50 copies. London, 1884. Presented "In memory of Joseph Bailey Muir, born Joseph William Bailey, January 31, 1863-February 26, 1929, a colorist of this book. Gift of his son, Andrew Forest Muir"
Ruth Pennybacker	Harvest, 1951, 1952, 1954
Louis M. Rabinowitz	Voice of Israel, by Abba Eban
G. D. Robertson	AAPG Bulletins, AIME Transactions and other geological publications in honor of G. D. Robertson, Jr.
Shell Development Co.	$100, 1957 contribution to Friends of Fondren Library
J. D. Thomas	Composition for technical students
P. S. Williams	Geophysical Society of Tulsa, Proceedings, v.1-2

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John Wright	Recollections of an Old Confederate Soldier, by A. R. Gibbons
O.W.L.S. Alumnae	$150 for current fiction shelf
S.L.L.S. Alumnae	$25 for Fondren Library

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I

Though in its stern vagaries Fate
   A poor book-lover me decreed,
Perchance mine is a happy state--
   The books I buy I like to read:
To me dear friends they are indeed,
   But, howe'er enviously I sigh,
Of others take I little heed--
   The books I read I like to buy.

II

My depth of purse is not so great
   Nor yet my bibliophilic greed,
That merely buying doth elate:
   The books I buy I like to read:
Still e'en when dawdling in a mead,
   Beneath a cloudless summer sky,
By bank of Thames, or Tyne, or Tweed,
   The books I read--I like to buy.

III

Some books tho' tooled in style ornate,
   Yet worms upon their contents feed,
Some men about their bindings prate--
   The books I buy I like to read:
Yet some day may my fancy breed
   My ruin--it may now be nigh--
They reap, we know, who sow the seed:
   The books I read I like to buy.

Envoy

Tho' frequently to stall I speed,
   The books I buy I like to read;
Yet wealth to me will never hie--
   The books I read I like to buy.

Thomas Hutchinson

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